



MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

MSHSL LOCAL RULES & TERMS OF COMPETITION

(Adopted by the Golf Advisory Council March 20, 2023)

COACHING ON THE COURSE - Each participating school may have one (1) Head Coach and one (1) Assistant Coach (duly hired by the school board of that school) provide advice to the players from that school while on the golf course.

Coaching on the course is permitted until the player(s) step onto the putting green. Coaches are not permitted to step into any bunker or onto any putting green to provide coaching assistance to their player(s).

Coaches are permitted to provide assistance to players on shots on a putting green only if it is a matter of a Rules clarification or inquiry. In order to do so, the player must step off the putting green to receive rule clarification from his/her coach. The player(s) within the group must announce to all members of the playing group of their intention to talk with their coach or Rules Official.

ALTERNATIVE SCORING FORMAT – REGULAR SEASON ONLY (RULE 21.2) - The Host Coach may elect to conduct an event using a “Maximum Score” format of their choosing, including Double Par and Circle 10, per Rule 21.2 of the Rules of Golf. This information MUST be included on the “Local Rules Sheet” for the event. In addition, Conferences also may elect to adopt a scoring format policy for any and all Conference events with the approval of Conference schools.

ALTERNATIVE TO STROKE AND DISTANCE FOR LOST BALL OR OUT OF BOUNDS – MODEL LOCAL RULE (MLR) E-5 - The Committee may adopt **MLR E-5** for use in Invitational and Conference events ONLY. The MSHSL will not adopt it for use in Sub-Section, Section and State tournaments. (For specific language, please refer to the Committee Section, Section IV (Model Local Rules and Other Forms of Play) in the “Official Guide to the Rules of Golf” (p. 473) or in the Rules of Golf app.)

MODIFICATION OF PENALTY UNDER RULE 3.3b(2) FOR MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION – MODEL LOCAL RULE (MLR) L-1 - Rule 3.3b(2) is modified in this way:

If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the **general penalty (two penalty strokes)**. The penalty applies to the last hole of the player’s round.

WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL – The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee. The result of a match is final when the Committee has approved the result and published the results on the public scoreboard (including a digital scoreboard).

MODIFICATIONS FOR PLAYERS WITH DISABILITIES - Rule 25 of the Rules of Golf allow for the modification of the Rules in order to accommodate a player with disabilities. The Committee should refer to this Rule for guidance if the situation exists.

PRACTICING BEFORE & BETWEEN ROUNDS (Stroke Play Only) – Model Local Rule I-1.1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

PRACTICING BETWEEN HOLES (Stroke Play Only) – Model Local Rule I-2 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

OUT OF BOUNDS – Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes, fence posts and white lines (if used to define the boundary). If both stakes and lines are used to mark the boundary, the stakes *identify* and the lines *define* the boundary. When stakes used to define or show the boundary edge, they are boundary objects.

GATES IN BOUNDARY FENCES AND WALLS – Model Local Rule F-26 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

PENALTY AREAS – Penalty areas are marked as either red or yellow.

- When stakes or flags and painted lines are used to mark a penalty area, the stakes or flags *identify* and the lines *define* the penalty area.
- When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity.
- When a penalty area is connected to an out-of-bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with out of bounds.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR – Defined by white lines or otherwise listed on the Local Rules Sheet. French drains and cultivated flower and shrubbery beds on the course are ground under repair even if not so marked.

WOOD CHIPS & MULCH – Are loose impediments.

RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF – Model Local Rule F-7 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS – White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially-surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions to which they are connected are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

BALL DEFLECTED BY ELEVATED POWER LINE – Model Local Rule E-11 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. However, a ball striking a tower, pole or support wire without striking the power line itself, or striking the power line when out of bounds, must be played as it lies. There is no line of flight relief from these obstructions.

INTEGRAL OBJECTS – Include cables, rods, wires and wrappings when closely attached to trees, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas or in or adjacent to bunkers, and bunker liners. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance.

SUSPENSION OF PLAY SIGNALS –

Immediate suspension - One prolonged air horn note, repeated.

Normal suspension - Three consecutive air horn notes, repeated.

Resumption of play - Two short air horn notes, repeated.

When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, players must stop play immediately and must not make another stroke until the Committee resumes play. All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. **PENALTY: *Disqualification***. NOTE:

Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing; failure to stop practicing might result in disqualification.

DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES & OTHER SIMILAR EQUIPMENT

The MSHSL Rule for Distance-Measuring Devices and other Similar Equipment follows Rule 4.3a of the Rules of Golf as follows. (NOTE: The entire Rule, despite not being included here, is in effect.)

Distance and Directional Information

- **Allowed** Getting information on distance or direction (such as from a distance-measuring device or compass).
 - **Allowed Devices** Stand-alone distance measuring devices (such as laser and GPS rangefinders) as well as distance measuring apps (such as GolfShot and GolfLogix) loaded on personal devices are permitted. Devices that contain the functionality to calculate measurements other than distance are permitted as long as the functionality remains turned off throughout the entire round.
- **Not Allowed**
 - Measuring elevation changes, or
 - Interpreting distance or directional information (such as using a device to get a recommended line of play or club selection based on the location of the player's ball).

Information on Wind and Other Weather Conditions

- **Allowed**
 - Getting any type of weather information (including wind speed) that is available from weather forecasts, or
 - Measuring temperature and humidity at the course.
- **Not Allowed**
 - Measuring wind speed at the course, or
 - Using an artificial object to get other wind-related information (such as using powder to assess wind direction).

Information Gathered Before or During Round

- **Allowed**
 - Using information that was gathered before the round (such as playing information from previous rounds, swing tips or club recommendations), or
 - Recording (for use after the round) playing or physiological information from the round (such as club distance, playing statistics or heart rate).
- **Not Allowed**
 - Processing or interpreting playing information from the round (such as club recommendations based on current round distances), or
 - Using any physiological information recorded during the round.

Audio and Video

- **Model Local Rule G-8**
 - Rule 4.3a(4) is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device.

Penalty for Breach of Rule 4.3:

- **Penalty for first breach from single act or related acts: Two (2) Strokes**
- **Penalty for second breach unrelated to first breach: Disqualification**

CELL PHONE USAGE POLICY

Tournament Staff & Coaches

Cell phone use is permitted for MSHSL tournament staff and sectional/state tournament coaches under the following conditions:

1. Access to the MSHSL Golf iWanamaker app.
2. Communication with other tournament staff and/or coaching staff members.
3. Communication amongst coaches of the same school in regard to assistance with a player on the course as long as it does not disrupt or slow the pace of play.
4. Emergency situations on the course or in the clubhouse.

Players

Cell phone use is permitted at all levels of play ONLY under the following conditions:

1. Electronic scoring through the MSHSL Golf iWanamaker app from green to next tee box only.
2. As a Distance-Measuring Device through an app, such as GolfLogix or Golf Shot.
3. If a Rules Official is needed, one can be requested through the iWanamaker app only. All players within the group must be aware of the Rules Official being requested.
4. Emergency situations on the course or in the clubhouse.